

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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EDITOR

Migration and Communicable Diseases

From the beginning of time migration of human beings has been associated with the transmission of communicable diseases. The fall of Rome has been attributed to the introduction of malaria into the empire through the migration of soldiers. War has been particularly productive of disastrous epidemics of diseases made intensive through mass migrations. The pandemic of influenza of 1918-1919 illustrates the terrific damage that may be executed by a world-wide epidemic made virulent through mass movements of human beings.

Migration of white people to California began about 1820 and there are records of mysterious epidemics among the native Indian population following the arrival of white men. California was one of the most isolated spots on the globe prior to the establishment of the missions by the Spanish padres. Records of some of the missions portray the extent of epidemics of respiratory as well as intestinal diseases among the neophytes. In the "days of '49," in 1850, when the gold rush was at its height, typhoid fever, Asiatic cholera and dysentery were the most common of the communicable diseases.

It was not until 1855, when the first railroad in California was built between Sacramento and Folsom, that laborers were imported from Italy. Malaria had been brought from other states to California before the arrival of these Italians, but it would seem certain that they brought a particularly viru-

lent form of malaria into California from their native Italy.

In 1861, when the transcontinental railroad was under construction, 6000 Chinese were imported to work upon this railroad line. This started a general migration of Chinese into the United States and, during the 10 years ending in 1871, no less than 45,000 Chinese laborers came into California. The migration of Japanese laborers began in 1890 and by 1904 they had penetrated into every part of the state. During the eight years between 1900 and 1908 no less than 136,541 Japanese laborers entered California. This migration was curbed by the Exclusion Act of 1924, just as the Chinese migration had been curbed by the Exclusion Act of 1882.

Colonies of Spanish and Portuguese, consisting mostly of agricultural laborers, were established intermittently during the early part of the present century. Cornishmen migrated to the gold mines of Nevada County and Latin races later constituted the principal races employed in the Mother Lode gold mines. In 1915 the percentage of Italians, Spanish and Portuguese in California labor camps was almost 16, while in 1934 only 3.2 per cent of the total consisted of laborers of these races.

Mexican labor and the problems attendant upon it constitute an important subject in considering migratory labor in California. About 1909 Mexican laborers were brought into California by the railroads and

mines. They were paid \$1 a day for their work as compared with \$1.25 to \$1.50 that had been paid before their arrival. As early as 1907 records show that these migratory Mexicans became public charges. The Mexicans at that time constituted only about one-twentieth of the population of Los Angeles but one-third of the persons assisted were Mexicans. The increase in migration among Mexicans was rapid as is shown in the following tabulation:

Numbers of Mexicans in California

1890-----	7,164
1920-----	88,771
From government reports; does not show illegal entry.	
1930-----	368,013
(Census) 6.5 per cent of total population.	

When the recent depression appeared Mexicans began to drift back to Mexico in large numbers and at the present time the migration is not as extensive as it was in the prosperity era of the late 1920's. In 1928 Mexicans constituted 75 per cent of farm operators in Imperial County, chiefly in the Coachilla Valley, 84 per cent of farm operators in the rest of southern California and 56 per cent of those in San Joaquin County.

Migration of Hindus was never extensive. Probably 3000 was the maximum and these people were excluded by the Exclusion Act of 1917. Filipinos first began to arrive in numbers in 1923, increasing steadily until 1930, when there were 30,470 in California. Since 1930 large numbers of them have been returned to the Philippine Islands upon army transports. Most of the Filipinos that come to the United States are young, 84 per cent of them being less than 30 years old. Ninety-three per cent of them are males and 77 per cent are single.

Most of these different nationalities have brought communicable diseases with them into the state or have lacked resistance to infections that might be encountered in this country. Tuberculosis has always been particularly prevalent among the Cornishmen in the deep gold mines. The Portuguese miners and agricultural workers have suffered considerably from hookworm, but the disease disappeared from the state following the introduction of control measures and cessation of Portuguese migration. Mexicans have little or no resistance to tuberculosis. The type of peon that comes to California, in his native land, possesses a shirt and a pair of pants and is content to live under the shade of a convenient tree. When he comes into contact with modern civilization, crowded into the cheap lodging houses and living an indoor life, he contracts tuberculosis readily and does

not possess the necessary resistance to combat it successfully. Syphilis is also more prevalent among Mexicans than among many other foreign-born races. Filipinos have brought serious epidemics of epidemic meningitis into California and at one time the control of this disease among Filipinos in the lettuce fields and in their cheap lodging houses in the metropolitan areas constituted a serious problem.

Since 1929 a new problem in migratory labor has arisen in California. While the migration to California of the white race has been steady for more than eighty years there has never until recently been a mass movement of under-privileged white individuals into the state. Since 1930 there has been an extensive movement of poor whites from the south-central and southern states to California. This movement began with the depression and flared extensively following the drought years in the Middle West from 1933 to 1935. Once started, it assumed greater magnitude each year until, with the increased acreage devoted to harvestable crops, still greater numbers have come into the state during the past two years. During the two and one-half years ending in 1937, 221,000 of these laborers entered California by automobile.

Under the application of modern public health procedures, however, communicable diseases among these migrants have been kept under control. In spite of their malnutrition, due to the long use of faulty diets, tuberculosis is no more of a problem than it is among local residents. By means of immunization neither diphtheria nor smallpox has developed into an important epidemic and typhoid fever has been kept in check. This record is unique in the annals of migration.

EPIDEMIC POLIOMYELITIS IN 1937

A statistical analysis of poliomyelitis in California, last year, reveals the following data:

(1) A total of 663 cases was reported during the year 1937, of which number 72.0 per cent (477 cases) were paralytic and 25.8 per cent (171 cases) were nonparalytic. The type is unknown in 15 reported cases.

(2) In certain counties of the San Joaquin Valley the proportion of paralytic cases was lower than for the state as a whole. This is noticeable in Kern, Tulare, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.

(3) Almost two-thirds of all cases reported, 423, occurred during the months of July, August and September. The greatest number reported during a single month was 157 in August.

(4) Cases were reported in every county of the state except Alpine, Del Norte, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mono, San Benito, Sierra and Tuolumne.

(5) The highest proportions of cases, both paralytic and nonparalytic, occurred in the 5 to 9 year age group.

(6) There were but 58 cases out of 663 reported that were in persons 30 years of age and older—8.8 per cent of the total.

POLIOMYELITIS—1937

Paralytic and Nonparalytic Cases by Counties

Counties	Paralytic cases	Non-paralytic cases	Unknown type	Total
Alameda	27	7	--	34
Alpine	--	--	--	0
Amador	--	1	--	1
Butte	3	--	--	3
Calaveras	3	--	--	3
Colusa	3	--	--	3
Contra Costa	3	--	--	3
Del Norte	--	--	--	0
El Dorado	1	--	--	1
Fresno	9	--	--	9
Glenn	4	1	1	6
Humboldt	10	--	--	10
Imperial	2	1	--	3
Inyo	1	--	--	1
Kern	24	50	--	74
Kings	5	--	--	5
Lake	--	--	--	0
Lassen	--	--	--	0
Los Angeles	177	63	5	245
Madera	3	--	--	3
Marin	3	4	--	7
Mariposa	--	--	--	0
Mendocino	3	--	--	3
Merced	4	1	1	6
Modoc	1	--	--	1
Mono	--	--	--	0
Monterey	3	--	--	3
Napa	1	--	--	1
Nevada	1	--	--	1
Orange	6	1	--	7
Placer	1	1	--	2
Plumas	--	--	1	1
Riverside	3	1	1	5
Sacramento	15	2	--	17
San Benito	--	--	--	0
San Bernardino	10	2	--	12
San Diego	46	11	--	57
San Francisco	21	2	--	23
San Joaquin	11	8	--	19
San Luis Obispo	4	--	1	5
San Mateo	6	1	--	7
Santa Barbara	2	--	--	2
Santa Clara	4	1	1	6
Santa Cruz	2	--	--	2
Shasta	3	1	--	4
Sierra	--	--	--	0
Siskiyou	1	--	--	1
Solano	4	--	--	4
Sonoma	5	--	--	5
Stanislaus	11	5	--	16
Sutter	4	--	--	4
Tehama	2	--	--	2
Trinity	1	--	--	1
Tulare	11	5	1	17
Tuolumne	--	--	--	0
Ventura	4	--	3	7
Yolo	2	1	--	3
Yuba	1	--	--	1
California	6	1	--	7
Total	477	171	15	663

Paralytic and Nonparalytic Cases by Age Groups

Age group	Paralytic cases No.	Paralytic cases %	Nonparalytic cases No.	Nonparalytic cases %	Unknown type No.	Total	Per-centage paralytic
-1	15	3.14	17	9.94	--	32	46.88
1-4	15	18.87	23	13.45	5	118	76.27
5-9	126	26.42	47	27.49	2	175	72.00
10-14	78	16.35	36	21.05	3	117	66.67
15-19	51	10.69	17	9.94	2	70	72.86
20-24	40	8.39	10	5.85	1	51	78.43
25-29	33	6.92	7	4.09	--	40	82.50
30-34	18	3.77	7	4.09	--	25	72.00
35-44	15	3.14	4	2.34	2	21	71.43
45-54	6	1.26	3	1.75	--	9	66.67
55-64	1	0.21	--	--	--	1	100.00
65-74	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
75 and over	2	0.42	--	--	--	2	100.00
Unknown	2	0.42	--	--	--	2	100.00
Total	477	100.00	171	100.00	15	663	

Paralytic and Nonparalytic Cases by Months of Onsets

Months	Paralytic cases	Nonparalytic cases	Unknown type	Total cases
January	9	4	--	13
February	4	1	--	5
March	10	--	--	10
April	15	--	--	15
May	16	6	--	22
June	33	6	1	40
July	93	39	2	134
August	108	45	4	157
September	92	40	--	132
October	61	20	3	84
November	26	8	2	36
December	10	2	--	12
Unknown	--	--	3	3
Total	477	171	15	663

HEALTH OFFICERS' MEETING SCHEDULED

The annual meeting of the health officers of California is scheduled for September 6, 7 and 8 in Santa Barbara. The health officers of the state are organized as the Health Officers' Section of the League of California Municipalities, and will meet at the same time that the league holds its annual convention. Dr. E. F. Reamer, of Modesto, health officer of Stanislaus County and president of the section, has started activities in the building of a program through the appointment of a committee.

Following are the officers of the organization:

President: Dr. E. F. Reamer, Modesto, Health Officer of Stanislaus County.
 First Vice President: Dr. George Parrish, Los Angeles, City Health Officer.
 Second Vice President: Dr. I. O. Church, Oakland, Health Officer of Alameda County.
 Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. W. M. Dickie, Sacramento, State Director of Public Health.
 Representative of the Health Officers' Section on the Executive Board of the League of California Municipalities: Dr. H. F. True, Sacramento, City Health Officer.

"Sanitary instruction is even more important than sanitary legislation."—Earl F. Derby.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending May 28, 1938

Chickenpox

942 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Berkeley 30, Hayward 1, Oakland 60, Piedmont 2, Butte County 1, Gridley 2, Contra Costa County 7, Martinez 2, Pittsburg 1, Richmond 3, Fresno County 17, Fresno 16, Imperial County 2, Kern County 28, Bakersfield 5, Delano 1, Taft 5, Kings County 1, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 72, Alhambra 9, Arcadia 1, Burbank 6, Compton 6, Culver City 1, El Monte 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 19, Hermosa 2, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 6, Long Beach 16, Los Angeles 113, Manhattan 1, Monrovia 4, Montebello 2, Pasadena 22, Pomona 6, Redondo 2, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 1, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 12, Torrance 1, Lynwood 5, South Gate 3, Monterey Park 6, Maywood 2, Gardena 1, Madera County 7, Madera 13, Marin County 1, Merced County 4, Monterey County 6, King City 8, Monterey 11, Orange County 6, Anaheim 1, Newport Beach 4, Orange 2, Santa Ana 2, Laguna Beach 8, Roseville 1, Riverside County 5, Banning 6, Riverside 9, Sacramento 25, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 2, Redlands 1, San Diego County 6, Coronado 12, San Diego 34, San Francisco 69, San Joaquin County 24, Stockton 38, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Luis Obispo 3, San Mateo County 1, Daly City 22, San Bruno 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 23, Santa Maria 18, Santa Clara County 4, Gilroy 1, Mountain View 2, San Jose 2, Sunnyvale 1, Redding 1, Solano County 1, Benicia 4, Fairfield 9, Sonoma County 1, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 5, Modesto 6, Turlock 1, Tehama County 2, Tulare County 7, Ventura County 2, Yolo County 1, California 1.*

Diphtheria

23 cases: Berkeley 1, Contra Costa County 1, Richmond 1, Imperial County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 8, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, Monterey 1, San Bernardino County 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Ventura County 1.

German Measles

43 cases: Berkeley 3, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 1, Compton 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 3, South Gate 2, Maywood 1, Orange County 1, Huntington Beach 1, Orange 2, San Clemente 3, San Bernardino County 1, Oceanside 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 7, Palo Alto 1, Siskiyou County 1.

Influenza

22 cases: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 3, Napa 1, San Bernardino County 3, San Francisco 2, Red Bluff 4.

Malaria

2 cases: Fresno County 1, Riverside County 1.

Measles

905 cases: Oakland 19, Butte County 22, Contra Costa County 10, Fresno County 13, Fresno 11, Kingsburg 1, Imperial County 1, Callexico 4, El Centro 1, Kern County 78, Bakersfield 23, Delano 9, Hanford 6, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 40, Alhambra 2, Claremont 2, Glendale 17, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, La Verne 2, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 53, Pasadena 4, Pomona 15, San Fernando 3, Santa Monica 3, Whittier 1, Lynwood 1, Maywood 1, Madera County 18, Madera 4, Chowchilla 1, Marin County 1, Merced County 2, Los Banos 1, Merced 6, Monterey County 6, Monterey 1, Orange County 67, Anaheim 1, Newport Beach 6, Orange 9, Santa Ana 44, Seal Beach 1, Laguna Beach 11, Placentia 2, Tustin 3, Riverside County 11, Blythe 1, Riverside 28, Sacramento County 12, Sacramento 32, San Bernardino County 8, Redlands 6, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 17, La Mesa 1, National City 3, San Diego 97, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 2, Lodi 8, Stockton 5, San Luis Obispo County 16, Paso Robles 2, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 2, Redding 1, Stanislaus County 25, Modesto 12, Tehama County 3, Tulare County 21, Ventura County 16, Fillmore 1, Oxnard 10, Ventura 2, Ojai 2, Yolo County 5, Marysville 9.

Mumps

623 cases: Alameda County 22, Alameda 49, Berkeley 3, Hayward 2, Livermore 1, Oakland 28, Piedmont 1, San Leandro 7, Contra Costa County 8, Pittsburg 3, Fresno County 28, Fresno 50, Kern County 18, Bakersfield 10, Hanford 1, Lake County 10, Los Angeles County 35, Alhambra 6, Compton 3, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 3, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 24, Monrovia 3, Pasadena 1, Pomona 5, Redondo 1, San Fernando 6, Santa Monica 5, South Gate 1, Bell 1, Madera County 5, Madera 2, Merced County 2, Gustine 3, Los Banos 4, Monterey 1, Napa County 1, Calistoga 2, Napa 2, Orange County 9, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 5, Tustin 1, Roseville 17, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 31, San Diego County 10, Coronado 1, La Mesa 1, National City 3, Oceanside 4, San Diego 12, San Francisco 38, San Joaquin County 4, Paso Robles 2, Daly City 5, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 7, Santa Clara County 12, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 27, Sunnyvale 1, Sierra County 1, Dixon 1, Sonoma County 1, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 18, Modesto 12, Turlock 5, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 5, Exeter 4, Porterville 5, Yuba County 2, California 1.*

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

49 cases: Berkeley 1, Richmond 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 6, Culver City 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 21, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 2, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 10, Watsonville 1, Petaluma 1.

Scarlet Fever

235 cases: Alameda County 14, Alameda 2, Oakland 4, Contra Costa County 5, Richmond 1, Fresno County 9, Fresno 7, Callexico 1, Kern County 16, Bakersfield 4, Taft 1, Hanford 3, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 25, Alhambra 2, Avalon 1, Burbank 2, Glendale 5, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 43, Manhattan 2, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 1, Torrance 1, Lynwood 6, South Gate 3, Monterey Park 1, Gardena 1, Salinas 3, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Huntington Beach 1, Tustin 1, Riverside 5, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino County 6, Ontario 1, Redlands 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 14, San Joaquin County 3, Tracy 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 2, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Watsonville 2, Dunsmuir 3, Sonoma County 2, Sutter County 1, Yuba City 1, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 1, Tuolumne County 2, Ventura County 1, Ventura 1, California 1.*

Smallpox

31 cases: Kern County 9, Delano 1, Los Angeles County 2, Alhambra 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 1, Monterey Park 1, Orange County 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Tulare County 6, Exeter 1, Visalia 5.

Typhoid Fever

6 cases: Fresno County 1, Imperial County 2, Monterey County 1, San Francisco 1, Tulare County 1.

Whooping Cough

501 cases: Alameda County 8, Alameda 13, Berkeley 4, Livermore 2, Oakland 66, Piedmont 3, San Leandro 8, Colusa County 5, Contra Costa County 2, Richmond 1, Fresno County 16, Fresno 18, Kern County 6, Bakersfield 5, Taft 1, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 23, Alhambra 1, Avalon 1, Glendale 3, La Verne 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 26, Pasadena 5, Pomona 4, Santa Monica 1, Lynwood 2, South Gate 5, Maywood 1, Madera 1, Merced 7, Monterey County 3, Monterey 2, Nevada County 1, Orange County 12, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Roseville 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 24, San Benito County 1, San Diego County 14, Chula Vista 1, National City 4, San Diego 8, San Francisco 72, San Joaquin County 14, Lodi 3, Stockton 14, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 2, Daly City 4, Redwood City 1, San Bruno 2, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 15, Gilroy 8, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 10, Dorris 2, Benicia 1, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 2, Stanislaus County 23, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

8 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Monterey County 1, Plumas County 1, San Francisco 1, Porterville 1, Visalia 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

One case: Los Angeles.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

4 cases: Berkeley 1, Callexico 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case: Los Angeles County.

Pellagra

One case: San Bernardino County.

Poliomyelitis

3 cases: Kings County 1, Culver City 1, Napa County 1.

Tetanus

One case: Gridley.

Trachoma

4 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Madera County 1, Riverside County 1, San Diego County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1.

Jaundice (Epidemic)

2 cases: San Joaquin County.

Food Poisoning

5 cases: Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1, Ventura County 3.

Undulant Fever

7 cases: Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 1, San Bernardino County 2, Ontario 1, San Diego County 1, San Jose 1.

Septic Sore Throat

6 cases: Alameda 1, Kern County 3, Fullerton 1, Sonoma County 1.

Rabies (Animal)

42 cases: Fresno County 9, Fresno 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 1, Arcadia 1, Los Angeles 10, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 1, Monterey Park 1, Riverside County 1, San Diego 4, San Luis Obispo County 1, Stanislaus County 1.